

LAWMAKERS DEFEND CIA

Denounce Critics; Russians
Cite 'Blow To Prestige'

BY PAUL W. WARD

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 16 — Congressional controversy over Central Intelligence Agency subsidization of an American student group's overseas activities continued to simmer today as the CIA found defenders on Capitol Hill.

And, on the foreign front, the Soviet Union charged that the CIA issue "has dealt a keen blow to United States international prestige."

Among the CIA's defenders were Senator McGee (D., Wyo.), who taught history in American universities for eight years before his 1958 election to the Senate.

Warning From McGee

"Short-sighted criticism of the CIA's role in giving financial aid to the National Student Association is prompted primarily by those who wish to 'get the CIA' for any reason, any excuse," McGee warned this afternoon.

Similar warnings issued from Senator Stennis (D., Miss.) and Representative Stratton (D., N.Y.). They are members of a so-called "watchdog" committee that maintains surveillance over CIA operations for the House and Senate.

Criticism of the CIA began Tuesday when *Ramparts* magazine proclaimed, in full-page newspaper advertisements here and in New York that the California monthly's next issue "will document how the CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders over the past fifteen years . . . (and) has used students to spy."

Soviet Broadcasts

Soviet broadcasts—keyed to the magazine's charges and the Congressional criticism of the CIA that they evoked—spoke consistently of the affair as a "scandal" and stressed the spy nature of the CIA's activities. The broadcasts were not documented or detailed in advance copies of the *Ramparts* magazine.

They also belittle the State Department's announcement last evening that President Johnson has ordered an investigation aimed at finding and stopping any Federal Government operations which may be eroding "the integrity and independence of the education community."

Calling it a "diplomatically formulated" announcement, they fault it for containing no "condemnation" of the way the CIA has "subordinated to itself" the "international activities of the top leadership of the N.S.A." and used it "as a means of obtaining intelligence data."

"Honest scholars," they add, "are particularly incensed because they fear that all United States professors abroad will be warily regarded as possible CIA agents."

Senator Harris (D., Okla.) also alluded to that possibility in a statement made today at a meeting of a Senate subcommittee on government research, which he heads.

He called for the "establishment of a separate, civilian agency for the Federal funding of social and behavioral research in foreign countries, now largely funded through the Defense Department."

McGee's Contention

Senator McGee, who has been a faculty member at Nebraska Wesleyan, Iowa State, Notre Dame, and the University of Chicago, as well as the University of Wyoming, evinced no like concern.

McGee contested that most students receiving financial aid "were never aware of any connection" with the CIA; and that "youth congresses and world youth activities are frankly subsidized by the Soviet Union."

Further, he said, if the CIA is not the one to do the job, it will have to be funded as part of the executive branch or assigned to a "new group specifically created for this purpose."

"Tempest In A Teapot"

Senator Stennis dismissed the controversy as "atempest in a teapot" and asserted that "when all the facts are out about this matter, it will be better understood" and won't seem so "bad."

Senator Russell (D., Ga.), who heads the "watchdog" committee, said he has been moved to condemn the CIA and said the committee will meet before the month.

Senator Hart (D., Mich.) said "the national security requires us to engage in secret intelligence activities," but subsidization of student organizations should be non-secret and left to, for example, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Representative Stratton asserted it "makes sense" for the CIA to finance anti-Communist operations overseas by American student organizations.

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